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these sports and games are patronized largely by Americans who come over the river from El Paso, Tex. This is probably the reason why it is impossible to get any smallpox information from the board of health.

During the past two months there has been no water in the Rio Grande River, and Mexicans residing in El Paso and Juarez visited constantly one side and the other. In El Paso 30 cases of smallpox have been reported since August, and it is quite probable as many, or more, have existed in Ciudad Juarez. It is estimated that about 5,000 Mexicans of the peon class reside in El Paso, Tex., along the river front. The total population of Juarez is 8,000 persons. The Mexicans of the lower classes in Juarez are in better condition and live in better houses than those located in El Paso. In the latter place the huts of the Mexicans are huddled together, and the common laws of sanitation are unknown.

El Paso authorities have discussed the question of a quarantine against Ciudad Juarez, while the Juarez officials claim that the smallpox originates in El Paso. The boards of health of the two communities have agreed upon a thorough investigation of the prevailing conditions and upon the isolation and quarantine of premises where the disease might be found.

There is no system of sewerage in Juarez, the natives do not even use cesspools. Sanitation as applied in cities and towns of the United States is unknown here; but in spite of this the general health of the community is excellent. The altitude and the dry pure air are an offset to a lack of drainage and the absence of cesspools. A community in this climate can be healthy in spite of itself.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CHAS. W. KENDRICK,
U. S. Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

VENEZUELA.

End of smallpox epidemic in Venezuela.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Maracaibo, November 28, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to notify the Department of State that I have received from the governor of the federal district of Caracas the official notice that the epidemic of smallpox in the Republic has been subdued, and that the ports of Venezuela are now open again and clean bills of health will be given.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

E. H. PLUMACHER,
U. S. Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.